## Message Text

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**ACTION DLOS-05** 

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 FEA-01

AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

EPA-01 INR-07 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 OES-03

SS-15 SP-02 ACDA-05 AEC-05 AGR-05 FMC-01 INT-05

JUSE-00 OMB-01 /101 W

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R 180945Z FEB 75 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2279 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMEMBASSY TEL AVIV USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PLOS, KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT ATTITUDES TOWARDS GENEVA LOS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 27826

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED GENEVA LOS CONFERENCE WITH SHAIKH SAUD AL-SABAH AND SOME OTHER MEMBERS OF KUWAITI DELEGATION FEBRUARY 16. KUWAIT DEL WILL NOMINALLY BE HEADED BY KUWAIT PERMREP IN GENEVA AMBASSADOR HASSAN DABBAGH. SHAIKH SAUD, HOWEVER, WILL BE CHIEF SUBSTANTIVE OFFICER. OTHERS WILL BE ABD AL-LATIF AL-SALEH AND ABD AL-HAMID AL-AWADHI, BOTH OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. KUWAIT DEL WILL INCLUDE OTHERS FROM NEW YORK, KUWAIT UNIVERSITY AND ELSEWHERE WITH TOTAL OF ABOUT EIGHT MEMBERS.

2. SHAIKH SAUD SEES STRAITS AND ECONOMIC ZONE QUESTIONS AS MAIN ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED OR AT LEAST DISCUSSED IN DEPTH AT GENEVA. HE CONFIDENTIAL

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REHEARSED WELL KNOWN TRADITIONAL VIEW THAT DEFINES STRAIT AS BODY

OF WATER THAT JOINS TWO HIGH SEAS AND EXPRESSED GOK REFUSAL TO ACCEPT VIEW THAT STRAITS OF TIRAN MEETS THAT DEFINITION.

- 3. SHAIKH SAUD ADMITTED THAT STRAITS OF TIRAN POSED THRONY PROBLEM, BUT HE PREFERS TO SEE IT WORKED OUT IN CONTEXT OF ANY ARAB-ISRAEL POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, OF WHICH, HE SAID, IT IS A PART, RATHER THAN IN LOS CONTEXT. HE FEELS THAT TO INCLUDE STRAITS OF TIRAN PROBLEM IN LOS IS STRAINING LATTER TOO MUCH. MOREOVER, HE PREDICTS US WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE GARNER SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION. SHAIKH SAUD VERY INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT USG VIEW OF SOVIET "COMPROMISE" IS AND WHETHER OUR POSITION WILL BE AT ALL DIFFERENT IN GENEVA FROM WHAT IT WAS AT CARACAS. EMBOFF SAID HE DID NOT KNOW BUT WOULD QUARY DEPARTMENT.
- 4. ON ECONOMIC ZONE QUESTION, SHAIKH SAUD SAID "WE ARE WITH YOU", BUT HE CONSIDERS THAT BOTH OF US ARE IN MINORITY. NEVERTHELESS, HE DOUBTS THAT 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE PROPOSAL WILL CARRY BECAUSE OF EUROPEAN, PERSIAN GULF AND LANDLOCKED STATES OPPOSITION. HE PREDICTS A COMPROMISE CALLING FOR 50 OR 75 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE.
- 5. ON GENEVA LOS IN GENERAL, SHAIKH SAUD SAID HE DOUBTED AN OVERALL AGREEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY MID-MAY.
- 6. ACTION REQUESTED: KUWAITIS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO LEADERS OF USDEL WILL BE IN GENEVA. IF POSSIBLE, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THIS INFO TO SAHIKH SAUD AS WELL AS WHATEVER WE CAN TELL HIM ABOUT USG POSITION ON STRAITS QUESTION, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO SOVIET COMPROMISE. STOLTZFUS

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